

Dear Veteran:

As a result of the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA), the VA has recently changed its policy about patient health information. This policy has to do with:

- How your health information may be used and shared with others.
- Your rights about your health information.
- The VA's legal duty to protect your privacy.

When you get admitted to the VA as an inpatient, you will be asked if you want your health information to be listed in the "facility directory."

If you choose not to be listed in the facility directory, this is also called "Directory Opt-Out":

- We cannot let anyone know you are a patient here.
- We cannot give out any of your health information. This means we will not be able to give out your name, location, and general health condition to any callers or visitors. This includes family, friends, clergy that are not members of the VA staff, and businesses (for delivery of flowers and cards, for example).

If you cannot make this decision because of health problems, a health care provider will make the choice for you. The decision will be based on your past wishes and what is in your best interest.

It is important you understand your patient rights. The VA has a responsibility to protect your privacy – including your health information. If you have any questions about these rights, please call:

NF/SG VHS VA Privacy Officer
James White, 1-800-324-8387 ext. 4019
NF/SG VHS VA Compliance Officer
Rodine Durgin, 1-800-324-8387 ext. 5736

Patient Privacy



It's Your Right



NF/SGVHS PEC

APPROVED

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Protecting
Your Health Information



<http://www.va.gov/north-florida/>